



News from White Haven

Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site, dedicated to Civil War General and 18th President Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia Dent Grant, is located in south St. Louis County, Missouri.

News from White Haven is a quarterly publication of Ulysses S. Grant NHS. It is also available online by visiting www.nps.gov/ulsg/.

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The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

30 People Become Citizens at Park



On November 10, people from Canada to Kuwait pledged their loyalty to the Constitution and laws of the United States.

"The immigrant is not a citizen of any State or Territory upon his arrival, but comes here to become a citizen of a great Republic...where all are equal before the law."

The above words spoken by President Ulysses S. Grant in a message to Congress on May 14, 1872, reflect his patriotism and belief that those who came to this nation as immigrants were entitled to justice and equality.

On Wednesday, November 10, thirty individuals who had emigrated from sixteen different nations became U.S. citizens in a naturalization ceremony held at the site.

On the day before Veterans Day, Superintendent Timothy Good welcomed the audience and recognized one of the candidates for citizenship who currently serves in the U.S. Armed Forces.

Guest speaker W. Dudley McCarter, Past President of the Missouri Bar, spoke of the journey that brought these people to choose citizenship. He suggested that these ceremonies remind us how fortunate we are.

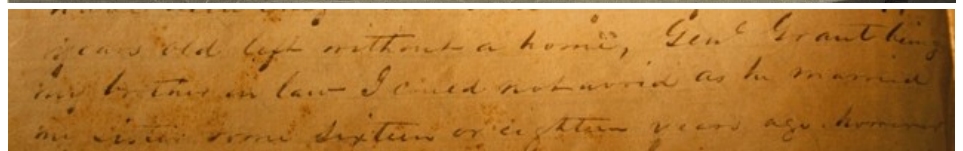
Following the Oath of Allegiance, each new citizen was invited to register to vote—a right and responsibility of all citizens.

The Ties that Bind: Grants and Dents in Disagreement

The holidays are traditionally a time for family gatherings. After the holidays, some of us may reflect on the old adage – *you can pick your friends but you can't pick your family.*

In the large families of Ulysses and Julia Grant there is evidence of this sentiment, especially as a result of their differing views during the Civil War. Julia said of her in-laws: “We were brought up in different schools. They considered me unpardonably extravagant and I considered them inexcusably the other way.” As evidence of these differences, in September 1861, Ulysses advised Julia against staying with his family in Covington, Kentucky, saying: “It would be very pleasant living in Covington, but your prejudice against [my sister] Clara, and her incorrigable [sic] persiverance [sic] in practicing her rigid economy upon evrybody [sic] but herself would make it insupportable. I could not live there with her in peace and you probably would be further from it than me.”

Ulysses initially thought of Julia's four brothers warmly. Fred had been a friend of Grant's since their West Point days, and when Grant became general of all the United States armies in March 1864, he called Fred to be part of his staff. Of Lewis, Ulysses noted he was “an intelligent and agreeable gentleman.” Ulysses



Top: The Grant family as seen in an 1867 pencil drawing. Image courtesy Library of Congress.

Bottom: An excerpt from a letter from John Dent to the governor of South Carolina, in which he distances himself from Grant, saying “Genl Grant being my brother in law I could not avoid as he married my sister some sixteen or eighteen years ago.” Image from ULSG collections.

even stayed with Lewis and John in Knight's Ferry, California, in 1852, recounting to Julia how he enjoyed their conversations into the night.

In at least one instance, these sentiments did not transcend politics during the Civil War. In a recently discovered letter from Julia's oldest brother, John (see page 3), we learn how he felt about his brother-in-law the Union general. Written in 1864, John appeals to the governor of South Carolina for his release from a Confederate prison, stating his family members for the most part “are... strong southern sympathizers.” He hopes the governor will not hold his family ties to Grant against him, saying “Genl. Grant being

my brother in law I could not avoid as he married my sister...”

Ulysses apparently developed similar feelings about John. After learning of his imprisonment, Ulysses commented that his former friend was “not a loyal man.” During John's confinement, Grant wrote to his father-in-law, “I hope John has been cured of his sesesh sympathies by his long sojourn... with the people he defends.”

After the war, family ties were mended, although differences still existed. Ulysses and Julia and their children always made certain that extended family issues did not become their own.

Spotlight on the Park: Letter from John Dent

This past November the park purchased a letter written by John C. Dent, Ulysses S. Grant's brother-in-law. It is a fascinating and important addition to collections and augments an existing collection of family letters.

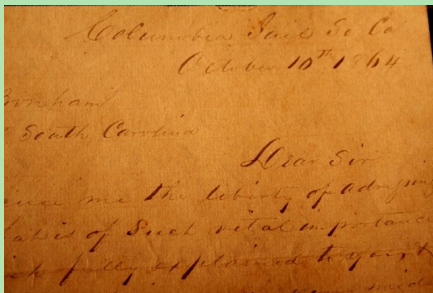


Image of John Dent's letter from ULSG collections.

Written from Columbia Jail, South Carolina, during the Civil War, it is filled with information relating to John's capture and the activities that landed him in a Confederate prison. In asking South Carolina's governor for his release, John gives us a glimpse into Dent and Grant family relations and their opposing views on union and secession. The letter also discloses to some extent the Union army's activities in regard to refugees and operating plantations along the Mississippi River under its control.

See "The Ties that Bind" on page 2 for an example of how the site is already using the letter to understand the complex family dynamics thrust upon the Grants during the Civil War.

A Word from Our New Administrative Officer

Ulysses S. Grant NHS's new Administrative Officer, Kevin Weber, wished to share these thoughts with you:

I believe that since starting at ULSG on August 2, I have had the pleasure of meeting everyone on staff, at least in passing. I can honestly say that I've been quite impressed with everyone's attitudes, abilities, and dedication to the mission of the Park Service.

My story in a nutshell is this: I began my federal civilian service in 1997 as a newlywed and recent college graduate. I worked several seasonal and term appointments at Lincoln Home NHS, but with a growing family, I needed to find a job that paid the bills year 'round. I moved on to the

Department of Defense Finance Office in Springfield, Illinois.

After completing 21 years of



Weber

military service in the Illinois Army National Guard, I began to look back outside the DoD, hoping to find a way to get back to the NPS. The position here provided a perfect opportunity to follow my heart and dreams. I am truly excited and humbled by the many challenges I face to learn the ever-growing list of processes and responsibilities I'm finding an Administrative Officer has.

Kids' Corner: Same Countries, New Names

During Ulysses and Julia Grant's world tour, they visited many countries. They learned about the people and cultures, and were welcomed by kings and emperors. Like



most tourists, they also shopped for souvenirs. Many of these countries they visited have since changed names. Can you match the name from 1879 with the name used today?

- | | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1. Burma | a. India |
| 2. Siam | b. Vietnam & Cambodia |
| 3. French Indochina | c. Iran |
| 4. Formosa | d. Myanmar |
| 5. Hindustan | e. Thailand |
| 6. Arabia | f. Taiwan |
| 7. Persia | g. Saudi Arabia |

Key: 1-d; 2-e; 3-b; 4-f; 5-a; 6-g; 7-c



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Upcoming Events

- April 23: Junior Ranger Day across the National Park Service. Join Ulysses S. Grant NHS for special activities throughout the day.
- April 29-May 1: “Camp Jackson: The Tipping Point,” the first of the St. Louis Civil War Sesquicentennial commemorations, will honor the 150th anniversary of Camp Jackson with a three-day Civil War reenactment at historic Jefferson Barracks County Park.

Did you know?

St. Louis saw its only armed Civil War action in May 1861. Missouri’s pro-Southern governor Claiborne Fox Jackson authorized the Missouri Militia to set up camp near today’s Saint Louis University. Union forces under General Nathaniel Lyon believed the Militia’s goal was raiding the Federal arsenal to acquire weapons to aid the Confederates.

To prevent this, Lyon’s troops surrounded the encampment, forcing a peaceful surrender from the Militia’s commander, General Daniel Frost. As Lyon marched the Militia from the camp toward the prison at the arsenal on May 10, Confederate sympathizers gathered, shouting for the prisoners’ release. What happened next is still uncertain, but as fighting broke out, Federal forces

began to fire into the crowd, killing over 20 people.

This event will be commemorated April 29-May 1 at Jefferson Barracks County Park with Civil War encampments and reenactments. Visitors will experience camp life of both the Missouri Militia and the pro-Union Home Guard. For more information, visit www.freedomsgateway.com.